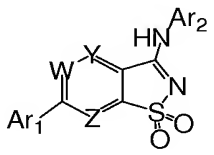
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

W, Y and Z are independently N or CR_1;

R_1 is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy and haloC_1-C_6alkoxy;

Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from 5- to 10-membered aromatic carbocycles and heterocycles, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, nitro and groups of the formula LR_a;

L is independently selected at each occurrence from a single covalent bond, O, C(=O), OC(=O), C(=O)O, O-C(=O)O, $S(O)_m$, $N(R_x)$, C(=O)$N(R_x)$-, $N(R_x)$C(=O), $N(R_x)S(O)_m$, $S(O)_mN(R_x)$ and $N[S(O)_mR_x]S(O)_m$; wherein m is independently selected at each occurrence from 0, 1 and 2; and R_x is independently selected at each occurrence from hydrogen and C_1-C_8alkyl; and

R_a is independently selected at each occurrence from:

(i) hydrogen; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, haloC_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_8alkyl)amino and (3- to 10-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 6 substituents independently selected from (a) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, oxo and COOH; and (b) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl~~C_1-C_8alkenyl~~, C_2-C_8alkynyl~~C_1-C_8alkynyl~~, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ~~C_1-C_8alkyl~~ ether, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone~~C_1-~~

~~C_8alkanone~~, C_1-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxyC_1-C_8alkyl, haloC_1-C_8alkyl, cyanoC_1-C_8alkyl, phenylC_0-C_8alkyl, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_8alkyl, C_1-C_8alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_8alkylsulfonamido and (5- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_8alkyl.

2. (Previously presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Ar_2 is phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidinyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, haloC_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl and (C_1-C_6alkylsulfonamido).

3. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, COOH, C_1-C_6alkyl, haloC_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, haloC_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylsulfonyl and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)sulfonamido.

6. (Cancelled)

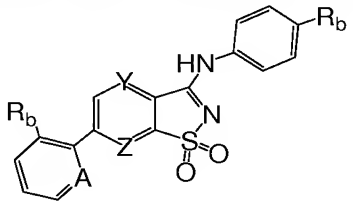
7. (Currently amended) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable ~~form~~ salt thereof according to claim 5, wherein Ar_1 is 3-methyl-pyridin-2-yl, 3-chloro-pyridin-2-yl, or 3-trifluoromethyl-pyridin-2-yl.

8. (Previously presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein W is CH; and Y and Z are independently N or CH.

9. (Previously presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein W, Y and Z are each CH.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the compound has the formula:



wherein A is N or CH, and each R_b is independently halogen, cyano, nitro or LR_a.

12. - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one compound or pharmaceutically acceptable pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 in combination with a physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

17. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting binding of vanilloid ligand to a capsaicin receptor *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting capsaicin receptor with at least one compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, under conditions and in an amount sufficient to detectably inhibit vanilloid ligand binding to capsaicin receptor.

28. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting binding of vanilloid ligand to capsaicin receptor in a patient, comprising contacting cells expressing capsaicin receptor with at least one compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, in an amount sufficient to detectably inhibit vanilloid ligand binding to cells expressing a cloned capsaicin receptor *in vitro*, and thereby inhibiting binding of vanilloid ligand to the capsaicin receptor in the patient.

29. - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) A method for treating a condition responsive to capsaicin receptor modulation in a patient, comprising administering to the patient a capsaicin receptor modulatory amount of at least one compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, and thereby alleviating the condition in the patient.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the patient is suffering from (i) exposure to capsaicin, (ii) burn or irritation due to exposure to heat, (iii) burns or irritation due to exposure to light, (iv) burn, bronchoconstriction or irritation due to exposure to tear gas, air pollutants or pepper spray, or (v) burn or irritation due to exposure to acid.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the condition is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

34. (Previously presented) A method for treating pain in a patient, comprising administering to a patient suffering from pain a capsaicin receptor modulatory amount of at least one compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, and thereby alleviating pain in the patient.

35. - 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the pain is associated with a condition selected from: postmastectomy pain syndrome, stump pain, phantom limb pain, oral neuropathic pain, toothache, postherpetic neuralgia, diabetic neuropathy, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, trigeminal neuralgia, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, meralgia paresthetica, burning-mouth syndrome, bilateral peripheral neuropathy, causalgia, neuritis, neuronitis, neuralgia, AIDS-related neuropathy, MS-related neuropathy, spinal cord injury-related pain, surgery-related pain, musculoskeletal pain, back pain, headache, migraine, angina, labor, hemorrhoids, dyspepsia, Charcot's pains, intestinal gas, menstruation, cancer, venom exposure, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease and trauma.

40. - 42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) A method for treating urinary incontinence or overactive bladder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient a capsaicin

receptor modulatory amount of a compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, and thereby alleviating urinary incontinence or overactive bladder in the patient.

44. (Previously presented) A method promoting weight loss in an obese patient, comprising administering to a patient a capsaicin receptor modulatory amount of a compound or salt thereof according to claim 1, and thereby promoting weight loss in the patient.

45. - 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Original) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in a container; and

(b) instructions for using the composition to treat pain.

49. (Original) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in a container; and

(b) instructions for using the composition to treat cough or hiccup.

50. (Original) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in a container; and

(b) instructions for using the composition to treat obesity.

51. (Original) A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16 in a container; and

(b) instructions for using the composition to treat urinary incontinence or overactive bladder.

52. - 53. (Cancelled)